

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5107

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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S E C R E T ANKARA 5609

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS COUP: WITHDRAWAL OF GREEK OFFICERS

REF: ANKARA 5589

1. PROCEEDING FROM TIMELY AND THOUGHTFUL COMMENTARY IN
ATHENS 4493 AND 4494 (NOTAL), WE SEE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR
CONCENTRATION ON PARAMOUNT PROBLEM CREATED BY CYPRUS COUP,
WHICH IS DANGER OF ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

2. BASIS OF DANGER IS THAT ATHENS-BACKED COUP HAS RAISED TWO
MAJOR CHALLENGES TO TURKEY WHICH COULD PRODUCE ARMED RESPONSE.
FIRST, IN TURKISH MINDS NATURE OF COUP STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT
A MAJOR STEP TOWARD UNION OF CYPRUS WITH GREECE HAS ALREADY TAKEN
PLACE AND THAT MORE STEPS COULD FOLLOW ANY TIME, DESPITE
TURKEY'S LONG REPEATED WARNINGS THAT SUCH UNION WOULD BE
CASUS BELLI. SECOND, COUP IF SUCCESSFUL WOULD RESULT IN CHANGING
CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER ESTABLISHED BY 1960 AGREEMENTS, TO WHICH
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TURKEY ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND UNDER WHICH TURKEY HAS

RIGHT TO INTERVENE. (IN ADDITION, THERE IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY THAT INTRA-GREEK FIGHTING COULD LEAD TO ATTACK ON TURKISH CYPRIOTS, WHICH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY PROVOKE TURKEY TO RETALIATE.)

3. ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THESE CHALLENGES IS FACT THAT COUP APPARENTLY CARRIED OUT NOT BY CYPRIOTS BUT BY HELLENIC ARMY OFFICERS OF NATIONAL GUARD. WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT ALL THESE GREEK OFFICERS BE WITHDRAWN, TO AVERT SERIOUS DANGER OF WAR AND BECAUSE FORCIBLE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY BY NATO MEMBER IS UNACCEPTABLE. THERE IS PRECEDENT IN GREEK WITHDRAWAL OF ARMY UNITS IN 1967 CYPRUS CRISIS. IT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT, WE WOULD THINK, TO MARSHAL STRONG INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON GREEK JUNTA ON BEHALF OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL, AND WE HAVE JUST HEARD FROM UK EMBASSY THAT HMG HAS IN FACT ASKED GOG FOR SUCH WITHDRAWAL AND FOR CONTINUED RECOGNITION OF MAKARIOS AS HEAD OF CYPRUS STATE. SEEMS LOGICAL THAT SUCH EFFORT COULD BE PURSUED IN NATO, FOLLOWED IF NEED BE BY EFFORT IN SECURITY COUNCIL. SINCE U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS ARE ALREADY IN BAD SHAPE, MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TAKE LEAD IN THIS APPROACH.

4. GIVEN TURKEY'S FAIRLY DELIBERATE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS REACTION TO COUP, THERE APPEARS BE TIME FOR APPLYING ABOVE APPROACH TO PROBLEM. HOWEVER, WE WOULD URGE AN EARLY BEGINNING IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF INCIDENT WHICH COULD SET OFF HOSTILITIES.

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